

The Honorable Tim Bishop
Statement on H.R. 5427
Fiscal Year 2007 Energy & Water appropriations

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself three minutes. First, let me start by thanking my colleague and friend, Congresswoman DeLauro, for cosponsoring this amendment and for her leadership in the effort to protect the splendor of Long Island Sound.

Our amendment limits the use of any funds appropriated in this bill for use by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the pending application for the placement of a floating storage and re-gasification unit known as “Broadwater” in the middle of Long Island Sound-- an area that was designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as an “Estuary of National Significance.”

To be clear, the amendment does not block any other pending application before the FERC relating to the placement of onshore and offshore liquefied natural gas projects around the country. Rather, it’s intended to protect the splendor of Long Island Sound as we expand our energy independence.

Like my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I believe that it’s in the best interest of our nation to develop new and innovative technologies, expand refining capacity, and increase the supply of natural gas.

However, we must strike a responsible balance between expanding the supply of energy and protecting the environment. Long Island Sound has benefited from hundreds of millions of dollars invested by the federal government, the states of New York and Connecticut, as well as local towns and municipalities fighting to curb hypoxia, brown tide, and other destructive pollutants which decimated our fishing and shell fishing industries and set back the regional economies.

Today, Long Island Sound generates \$5 billion annually for the regional economy from commercial and pleasure boating, commercial and sport fishing, and other forms of tourism. It should be easy to understand why it is imperative to preserve this flourishing economy, and the splendor of its environment for the benefit of over 10 million people who live within the Long Island Sound watershed alone.

Placing a floating terminal in this location threatens to jeopardize its precious ecosystem, the regional economy, and the delicate balance between environmental preservation and energy independence that we have worked so hard to achieve.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is not intended to weaken the case for expanding our supply of natural gas. My amendment is about making sure that we don’t lose sight of our environmental goals or allow preservation and conservation to take a back seat in the rush to formulate a more effective and less expensive energy policy.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment and work with me to make sure that we satisfy our energy needs while preserving the integrity of our natural resources. Let me close by thanking Chairman Hobson for his continued support for Brookhaven National Laboratory, which is in my district. Thanks for his continued support and leadership along with the ranking member. The scientific research funded in this bill will go a long way to advance our nations technology edge and competitiveness. I reserve the balance of my time.